

Procedural Digest

No. 5

48th Parliament

24-27 November 2025

November				
M	T	W	T	F
24	25	26	27	28

Business

5.01 Program of sittings for 2026

On 26 November, the Leader of the House presented a proposed program of sittings for 2026 and, by leave, moved that it be agreed to. The Manager of Opposition Business began to move an amendment when the Leader of the House moved closure of the question, which was agreed on division. The proposed sitting calendar was then agreed to on the voices.

*Hansard: 26 November 2025, P59-61
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/389-90*

SOs 29, 81

5.02 Final sitting day held over two calendar days

On Thursday, 27 November the Leader of the House moved to suspend standing orders 31 and 33. The question was put and passed on the voices. When moving the motion, the Leader of the House explained that this was to facilitate the House's consideration of messages from the Senate regarding amendments to legislation.

As a result of suspending standing order 31, there was no adjournment debate. Instead, the Leader of the House moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to permit six members to immediately make five-minute statements. The suspension motion passed on the voices and the statements were made in accordance with this resolution. The House then suspended at 5:38 pm until the ringing of the bells, at 9:07 am on Friday morning.

Following the resumption of the sitting, the House considered two messages from the Senate returning bills with amendments (to which the House agreed), and a further 14 messages from the Senate reporting bills without amendments or requests, before adjourning at 9:46 am. This is counted as a single sitting day in the Votes and Proceedings.

Standing order 31 requires that the question on the adjournment of the House be proposed by the Speaker at the time set out in standing order 29 (7.30 pm on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday and 4.30 pm on Thursday). Standing order 33 provides that no new business may be taken after the normal time of adjournment unless by order of the House before that time.

*Hansard: 27 November 2025, P66; 81-112
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/401-4*

SOs 31, 33, 47, 158, 161

Members

5.03 Copies of speeches incorporated into Hansard

On 25 and 27 November, in accordance with the resolution of the House of 6 November (see Digest [4.08](#)), a member presented a copy of their speech for incorporation into Hansard. These were the first two occasions a speech had been incorporated in this way.

Hansard: 25 November 2025, P113-4
27 November 2025, P18-20
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/383; 398

5.04 Leave of absence for all members

On the final sitting day of the year the Leader of the House moved that leave of absence be given to all members until the date of the next sitting. The question was agreed to on the voices.

Section 38 of the Constitution provides that the place of a member shall become vacant if they fail to attend the House for two consecutive months of any session of the Parliament. A motion of leave for all members is usually made by a minister at the end of a period of sittings to cover the absence of members during the break between sittings.

Hansard: 27 November 2025, P66
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/401

SO 26

Motions

5.05 Crossbench motions during Government business

On 24 November, the Member for Calare moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to introduce a private members' bill for immediate debate. The draft bill and explanatory memorandum were presented, by leave, as documents. The debate was adjourned on division.

On 26 November, the Member for Calare moved to suspend standing and sessional orders to call on and immediately consider a private members' bill. The debate was adjourned on division with six or fewer members voting 'No'. This was the first occurrence of a decision of the House, on division, being declared immediately by the Speaker without completing the count since standing order 127 was amended at the beginning of the Parliament. Previously, a decision was declared immediately without completing the count if there were four or fewer members on one side.

Also on 26 November, the Member for Clark was granted leave to move a motion relating to online gambling during government business time. The motion was moved and seconded before the debate was adjourned on division.

Hansard: 24 November 2025, P79-82
26 November 2025, P8-10; 28-31
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/363; 385; 387-8
SOs 47, 63, 111, 127

5.06 Condolence motion

On 25 November, the Prime Minister moved a condolence motion on the death of the Hon Graham Frederick Richardson AO, a former Minister and Senator for New South Wales from 1983 to 1994. The Leader of the Opposition seconded the motion and members then rose in their places as a mark of respect. Debate was adjourned and the motion referred to the Federation Chamber for further debate, where further statements were made on 26 and 27 November. Later on 27 November, the motion was reported returned from the Federation Chamber and agreed to, with members again rising in their places.

Hansard: 25 November 2025, P21-2

26 November 2025, P117-24

27 November 2025, P50; 123-7

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/375-6; 395; 401, 406

SO 49

Committees

5.07 Status of government responses to committee reports

On 26 November, the Leader of the House presented the *Status of government responses in the House of Representatives to parliamentary committee reports as at 21 November 2025*.

On 27 November, the Speaker presented the *Schedule of the status of government responses to committee reports as of 21 November 2025*. The report was incorporated into Hansard.

The government is expected to present a response to a House or joint committee report within six months of its presentation in the House, in accordance with a resolution of the House adopted on 29 September 2010.

Hansard: 26 November 2025, P62

27 November 2025, P1-10

Votes and Proceedings: 2025/390; 397

SO 199

Speaker

5.08 Dissent from ruling negatived

On 25 November, during Question Time, the Leader of the Opposition referred to the Minister for Climate Change and Energy as 'part-time energy minister'. The Speaker ruled the expression out of order, stating that members must be addressed by their correct titles. A shadow minister subsequently used the descriptor 'part-time minister' and was directed by the Speaker to leave the chamber for one hour in accordance with standing order 94(a).

Later that day, during the discussion of the matter of public importance, the Leader of the Opposition again used the descriptor 'part-time minister'. The Deputy Speaker asked the Leader to abide by the Speaker's earlier ruling, and noted that the title of the matter of public importance was adjusted as a result of that earlier ruling. Following points of order, the Deputy Speaker ruled that referring to a minister as the 'part-time Minister' was out of order. The Manager of Opposition Business moved that the Deputy Speaker's ruling be dissented from. Debate ensued and the House divided on the question 'that the ruling be dissented from', which was negatived on division.

The Leader of the House then moved that the business of the day be called on, which was carried on division.

Standing order 87 provides that, if there is objection to the ruling of the Speaker (or Chair), the objection or dissent must be declared at once and a motion submitted in writing. If the motion is seconded, the Speaker proposes the question and debate may proceed immediately. Dissent can only be moved in respect of a ruling, not on matters which are at the Speaker's discretion (for example, allocation of the call).

Hansard: 25 November 2025, P22; 25; 35-42
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/376-8
SOs 46, 64, 87, 94

Statements

5.09 Ministerial statements

Two ministerial statements were made during the sitting week:

- Annual statement on Northern Australia (24 November); and
- Annual climate change statement (27 November).

In each instance, the relevant Minister made a statement by leave and presented a copy of the statement. On 27 November other associated documents were also presented. The relevant Shadow Minister addressed the House in reply, before the Minister moved a motion that the House take note of the documents and further debate be referred to the Federation Chamber.

Hansard: 24 November 2025, P42-50
27 November 2025, P31-5
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/361; 400
SOs 63, 63A, 199, 202

5.10 Statements on significant matters

On 26 November, immediately after prayers, statements on significant matters were made by Assistant Ministers relating to:

- Australian Public Service Commissions' State of the service report 2024-25; and
- Consumer Reforms.

In each case, a shadow minister spoke in reply and the House resolved that further statements be permitted in the Federation Chamber.

On 30 October, the House resolved that further statements on the Domestic, Family and Sexual Violence Commission's yearly report to Parliament be permitted in the Federation Chamber (see Digest [4.14](#)). On 26 November, an assistant minister moved, without notice, to suspend standing and sessional orders to permit further statements on this matter in the House. The question was put and passed, with the concurrence of an absolute majority.

Hansard: 26 November 2025, P1-7; 24
Votes and Proceedings: 2025/385; 387
SOs 47, 50A, 50B

Offensive words[#]

<i>Offensive words or phrase</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>Hansard page reference</i>
'The Jim Reaper speaks, finally! ... you're a chicken liver!'	26 November	P48

SOs 89, 90, 92

[#] List of unparliamentary expressions recorded in *Hansard*.